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God's Judgments and Mercies shown to MANKIND: ~~Q. 795.~~

Being a particular Account of a great and Dismal *Rain*, that fell in *Scotland*, on the 24th of *Sept.* 1712. which has laid under Water, above eight hundred Houses and twelve hundred Families.

This dismal Rain came in the Night and Drowned several Persons in their Beds, others got into their Garrots, and without God's great Mercy, must either be Starv'd or Drown'd,

Here is also an Account of great Quantities of Sheep, Oxen and Horses, Corn, Hay and other Goods that is Drowned, Lost and Spoil'd by this Violent Rain, the like has not been known in the Memory of Man.

Likewise here is an account of a great Deliverance of nine Seamen belonging to her Majesties Ship the *Penzants* Man of War, now lying near *Queensborough*, who being in their Boat on the 27th of *Sept.* last at Night, and they Swearing one at another, at a prophane Wicked Rate, there appear'd several Visions of Fire, and Fire Balls and Fiery Darts were thrown up and down, that even the Earth, the Water and the Heavens seem'd to be all on Fire, from eleven at Night, till two the next Morning.

The Truth of this is Confirm'd by Sir *Will. Jumper*'s Coxen's Crew, and by several at *Queensborough*, who went with the Nine Seamen before the *Mayor* of the Town to give their Oaths of the Truth of this Relation.

This being Godly, is exempted both from Duty *and* Stamp.

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God's Judgments and Mercies ſhown to Mankind :

MAnkind is ſo liable to Frailties and Sins, that it is almoſt a wonder (according to our Deſerts) that God does not lay ſuch heavy Judgments on us, that we are not, nor cannot be able to bear them, but as he is ſevere in Judgments, ſo does he extend his Mercy in a great Meaſure; whoſe hearden'd Heart (the more is the pitty) of ſeveral Wicked Wretches that neither is thankful for his Mercies, nor ſeems to regard his Judgments, till they grow ſo heavy that they are ſcarce able to bear them, then do they call for help, and when they have receiv'd Mercy, they as ſoon forget it again; but I hope theſe two following Examples of God's Judgments, will have ſuch an Influence upon Mankind, that the Righteous may beg of God to have Mercy on thoſe who lye under Affliction, and as for thoſe that are Wicked, I hope they may mend their Lives, ſeeing there is no way of ſhunning God's Wrath, when he is pleas'd to lay it upon us, as by the following Relation you may obſerve,

Glaſcow, Sept. 24. Yeſterday Night about 8 a Clock came on here a great Rain, which ſo ſwell'd the River of Clide, that this Day we have the greateſt Flood that ever was ſince the Memory of Man. There is at leaſt 800 Houſes under Water, and 1200 Families that live in high houſes, in Priſon that cannot come out; In ſhort, all the lower part of the City is under Water. A Woman of 18 Years ſtanding

BRITISH MUSEUM

ſtanding within our Gates, on the ſtreet, was by the violent current of Water carried quite away and drowned. Our Bridge is in great Hazard, the Water being above all the Arches at writing hereof (at four of the Clock in the Afternoon). We ſhall have Flood-Tide at 6 at Night, ſo that the Water it is thought will yet flow 4 Foot. It is reported that our Bridge is ſtrained in two parts, and no Body dare venture upon it. There is ſeveral Thouſand Pounds worth of Victual and other Goods come down the Water this Day. We cannot as yet know what loſs there is of People and Goods in the Houſes under Water in this Town, being attacked in the Night-time. Five Foot of Sir Donald Mac Donald's Lodging at leaſt is under Water; but I hope there will be no Fear, the Houſe being ſtrong, and 3 ſtory high. Our Merchants Loſs is very conſiderable in their Cellars that lies near the Water, having Leather and Tobacco therein. There are 2 Men loſt in the Water of Kelvin; and I hear ſome others. The large Bridges ſtanding at Kirktintanlock, upon the Water of Logie, belonging to the Earl of Wigtoun, is carried quite away by the Water and Victual that was coming down it.

Innumerable are the Perſons that have ſuffered and loſt their Lives by this Inundation; their Goods are made a Prey to the Fury of the Waves, their Fields overflowed, their Cattle drowned, their Corn and Hay ſpoiled, with a great many other Calamities. So that tho' a great many People has eſcaped, yet they are ruined by the Loſs of their Worldly Effects. And they are much afraid that the the whole Country will be overflowed, by reaſon of the Waters continuing, unleſs prevented by the Providence of Almighty God.

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The Sailors Warning-Piece.

HOW *unsearchable are thy ways, O Lord!* saysthe Holy Psalmist in an Exstacy, having considered the wonderful Works of Providence. And are not we poor sinful Mortals, as much reason to cry out with *David*, and bless the *Divine Being*, who (when his Promises and fair means prove ineffectual, and can have no Power to make us forsake our Sins) condescends to visit us with Threats, and yet at the same time forbears to destroy both Body and Soul? Have we not I say the greatest Obligations upon to adore and praise the great Creator of the World, *who is so merciful to wretched Sinners?* Who *sends forth his Arrow by Day*, and *his Lightning by Night*, as a Warning to the Unrighteous. And what greater Sign can we expect of his Clemency than not to scatter his Enemies before him? He *willeth no the Death of a Sinner, but had rather he should be converted and live*; and therefore he gives us timely Warning; *for he calls the Sinner, not the Righteous to Repentance.*

The following Relation is a fresh Instance of what I have been speaking; and since God has been pleased to spare the Lives of so many sinful Persons, and suffer them to escape such Fiery Tryals, 'tis hoped they will make good Use both of the time and the Grace that is given them; and that all Christians will take VVarning by the dreadful Judgment which did hang over the Heads of the poor Sailors, which threatned them with immediate Destruction.

On

On the 27th of *September* the Pinnace's Crew belonging to the *Penzance* Man of War, having landed their Captain in *London*, were returning to their Ship, which lay near *Sheerneſs*, but being benighted they loſt their way as they imagined; and having rowed up and down with little Succeſs, not being able to find their Ship, and being ignorant of part of the *Thames* River, they were diſheartened; and one of the Boats Company cried out, and ſaid they were either bewitched, or elſe the Coxen ſteered wrong. At which the Coxen began to ſwear and curſe all the Men. But it happened in the *interim* they heard a Boat rowing by them, but could not diſcern her. Upon which they halled her, and asked her how far to *Sheerneſs*, upon which a ſhril hollow Voice replied, *Three Miles*; and on a ſudden there iſſued out of the Clouds a wonderful and unuſual great Flaſh of Lightning, and the Heavens ſeemed to be of a Flame. The Men were very much aſtoniſhed, *and began to tremble, when immediately there appeared a large Smack or Huoy, which as they thought did think to ſink 'em. Upon this they clapt a Helm a Lee (as they term it in their Sea Language) called out to them, and asked what they meaned to run athwart 'em and bear them down; and ſo kept on their way. But the Words were ſcarce out of their Mouths, when the ſame Huoy tacked about (tho ſome of the Men affirm it was another, for ſhe appeared to be bigger than the firſt) and crowding all the Sail ſhe could, bore down a ſecond time; which however they very induſtrioufly, tho very narrowly eſcaped, and kept on their way. Perceiving that ſhe did not follow them, they be-*

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gan to curse and swear, damning their Souls and Bloods for being such Fools to let her pass, venting their most execrable Oaths that were ever heard, and pawning their Souls to the Devil for the Performance of their Resolution, vowing if any Boat or Buoy came near 'em again they would board her. Thus did these unthinking miserable Wretches continue in their Impiety; their Hearts, like Pharaoh's, were hardened, and they regarded not the Heavenly Admonitions. They were now, as they thought, within a Quarter of a League of their Ship, and as is usual with Seamen, began to rant and roar, singing loud prophane Songs to pass away the Time: And tho the Sky did still remain as tho it were all in a blazing Fire, yet they heeded it not, neither did they apprehend the Danger they were in. But behold another Mark of the Divine Providence's being unwilling to send these obstinate Souls to utter Perdition! The same Vessel bore down upon them a third time; they called to her to forbear, but still she came more directly upon them. As soon as they saw this (maugre all their firm and determined Resolution of boarding her) tho they could not perceive any Man to be at the Helm, yet they rowed to Land thinking that was the safest method they could pursue; but not being able to reach the Place they designed, they were drove ashore by this imaginary Buoy, which immediately vanished in a Flame of Fire. Thunder and Lightning, such as was never heard or seen before, succeeded; which amazing Prodiges began to work upon the Disconsolate Seamen: They now began to have a Sense of the Divine Vengeance which hung over their Heads; they grew penitent, and the Hearts of all of them, save one, relented. This impious Sinner derided his Shipmates, laughed at their praying to God to deliver them, and despised their Devotion as the Effects of a base and unmanly Disposition.

He uſed very opprobious Langage, ſaid they had no Spirit in them, no Courage ; nor ſhould any thing work upon him to ſhow ſo much of a Womaniſh Action, tho' the Ground ſhould open, and he ſhould ſee Hell as it is repreſented in its terrifying Forms. How juſtly might God have poured down his Wrath and Indignation upon this obſtinate and wilful Soul : But behold the Clemency of an All-merciful and Compaſſionate God ! He would not ſend this miſerable Sinner Headlong into to that Place, which he boaſted could not terrify him with all its hideous Forms Whilſt this very Wretch was exclaiming againſt the penitent Seamen, there appeared a tall Man walking upon the Water : His Stature about ten Foot as near as can be gueſſed, and the Bulk of his Body was proportionable to his Height. He moved forward, came on Shore, walked round the Pinnace, and with an auſtere menacing Countenance ſhook his Head The poor Penitents, who were on their Knees to God, fell on their Faces ; and now the obdurate Heart of the obſtinate Sailor began to ſoften. His Mind was perplexed, he was exceedingly frightned, and ſtood as tho' he had loſt his Senſes. When this tall black Man diſappeared, there were innumerable Quantities of Fire-Balls flying about ; the Thunder was ſo loud that it ſeemed to rend the very Arches of Heaven ; at laſt a large Bulk of combuſtible matter, all in a Flame, ſeemed to be directed and hurled at the Sailor, whoſe Conſcience pricking him, fell flat on his Face, and joyned in Prayer with the reſt of the Ship-mates ; in which they continued as long as theſe ſtrange Prodigies laſted, which was 'till two a Clock in the Morning. As ſoon as theſe Converts had recovered from the Confuſion they were in, and their Spirits began to revive, they launched their Boat, and made what haſte they could to their Ship. The next Day having

leave

leave to go on Shore, they went to *Queenborough*, and having given God Thanks in that Town for their ſafe Deliverance, proceeded to make their Affidavits of what they had ſeen the preceding Night before the Worſhipful Mr. BECK, Mayor of Queenborough, who lives at the Sign of the *Swan*: It is alſo atteſted by the Coxen's Crew belonging to Sir *William Jumper*.

What Sinner now is ſo hardened in his Impiety, as not to take warning from hence? Who can continue in impious Courſes, and not have a ſerious Thought of God's Mercy? Yet let him not wait for ſuch a like Prodigy to work his Converſion; Life is uncertain, and he knows not how ſoon he may be called away. Therefore let every Man conſider and turn to the Lord; for he will have mercy on whom he will have mercy. And indeed this Conſideration is recommended more particularly to Sailors and ſea-faring Men; who, tho' they are the moſt expoſed to Hazards and Death, are generally the moſt leud & wicked.

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